

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INC.

1430 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138

NEWSLETTER NUMBER SIXTY-TWO

JUNE 1967

FIRST SEASON OF FIELDWORK AT NEKHEN (HIERAKONPOLIS)

1967 SEASON

By Walter A. Fairservis, Jr.

Director, Burke Memorial Washington State Museum.
Associate Professor, Anthropology Department,
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

The first season of fieldwork undertaken at Nekhen (Hierakonpolis) under the auspices of the ARCE was largely concentrated on the so-called town site, Kom el-Ahmar. Quibell, the first excavator there in the season of 1895-96, had worked chiefly on the southwest corner of the site, where a temple complex was revealed. This complex appears to cover a time range from the Archaic Period to a late phase of the Old Kingdom. The chronological spread was confirmed by token exploration of other places on the mound, which also revealed that the larger part of the mound was enclosed by a mudbrick wall.

The prime importance of the Kom el-Ahmar consists in its representation of a developing urban center early in Egyptian history. Quibell's recovery there of the Narmer palette, along with numerous other Archaic remains, suggests that Nekhen was a major center in that period. This evidence, together with the traditional association of Nekhen with a falcon god, indicates that perhaps the place was for a time the center of political power in Upper Egypt.

Because we generally lack evidence for the ecological setting in which Egyptian civilization had its development, Nekhen with its substantial habitation remains offers a splendid opportunity to recover such evidence. It was for this reason as well as, of course, the requisite for greater understanding of early historical settlements that our fieldwork was motivated.

The excavations were begun on the northeast side diametrically opposite Quibell's temple. The place selected was where Quibell had suggested that a gate through the enclosure wall existed. Our excavations revealed that the enclosure wall there had been built in two main phases during the Old Kingdom. The earlier phase rested on remains of Archaic time. Subsequently the wall was widened and presumably raised

COLLÈGE DE FRANCE
Cabinet d'Egyptologie

Inventaire B 10.4.95.....



in height by erecting an outer wall and filling the space between the two walls with earth and clay. A small gateway with mudbrick paving penetrated the two walls. Later, when the site fell on poorer days, habitations were established on the wall and within the gate, effectively covering the earlier periods with what we consistently referred to as the "junk layer". This produced such items as a British steel bolt, pottery marked with Roman numerals, and a piece of a limestone paradoxically inscribed "Ipst-sut" or Karnak.

Once we were inside the gate our plan has been to move across the width of the mound to the southwest, where we expect to connect up with Quibell's excavations. Thus we will be moving in effect from a known to a known.

We were able to start on this plan by opening up squares adjacent to the gate. Here beneath the "junk layer" was revealed the plan of at least two rather formal buildings. The function of the buildings was ostensibly utilitarian. A series of round platforms suggesting grain or other storage, fire pits, ovens, and the remnants of pottery magazines indicates that one of the buildings at least was a kitchen. Its size, ca. 20 x 30 meters, points to the possibility that it was intended to serve a sizeable population and makes one speculate as to whether it is adjacent to a palace or temple lying in the still to be excavated areas south and east. The date of these buildings is clearly Old Kingdom.

Some 50,000 potsherds were handled in the course of the work, and a percentage of these was seriated in connection with sondages sunk to determine the nature of earlier levels in the excavations. Sheep, goat, cattle, pigs, and perhaps the camel were identified from the faunal remains; the camel, however, belongs possibly to a phase of the New Kingdom identified near the gate. Something of a windfall was the recovery of a considerable number of flint objects including some handsome "razors", knives, and sickle blades.

Of greatest importance, however, was the collection of soil samples and the recovery of what may be human feces. These offer a great potential as clues to the character of human ecology in the Old Kingdom.

There is a certain exigency about the work at the Kom el-Ahmar in that canals have been built in the area since Quibell's time and these constantly leak water into the subsoil. In consequence the water table has risen considerably, and since with the new High Dam seasonal fluctuation will not be as great as previously, the water table will always prove a problem for the excavator. Our deepest tests penetrated less than a meter below the occupation levels previously described before water was reached. It was frustrating to pull Archaic pottery from the mud under the water line knowing that little can be done to clear those layers.

This is mitigated somewhat by the presence of the famous Archaic period "fort" just to the west. Here abundant habitation debris was encountered, not only within the building but also between the fort and the alluvial plain. We therefore have good opportunity to maintain a continuum of occupation evidence between the fort remains and the

Kom el-Ahmar.

The concession runs well into the desert and includes not only the historic tombs in the sandstone bluffs to the west of the fort, and the great predynastic and Archaic cemeteries, but detailed search revealed Sebilian and palaeolithic remains amid the gravels and silts of the various terraces left by the Nile. Most striking is the presence of a prehistoric habitation site at the fort in a wadi three kilometers into the desert.

Though little archaeology, except initial surveys in preparation for future seasons, was undertaken in the desert part of the concession, a geomorphological study was carried on by Dr. Hans Fischer of the Geographical Institute of the University of Vienna. This is a necessary preliminary for the prehistoric and protohistoric investigation planned for subsequent seasons.

The field team for the first season consisted of Dr. Fischer, Geomorphologist, S.A.Jain, Surveyor of the Archaeological Survey of India, G. Possehl, archaeology and faunal analysis, Marjory Hansen, Registrar, Mohammed Illowah, Inspector, Department of Antiquities, and H. Shafei, Assistant. Professor John Wilson acted as sponsor and advisor in Egyptological matters.

The proximity of the town of Edfu made it possible to set up headquarters in the new hotel there. So sparse is the tourist use of the place that we had it all to ourselves most of the time. In fact we got so we resented visitors to "our hotel". As an introduction to Egyptian archaeology after so many seasons of physical duress in South Asia, I'm afraid we almost became "spoilt".

This initial work has proved that Nekhen holds a mighty potential and the promise for future seasons could never be better.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DISEASE AND MEDICINE

By Kent R. Weeks

Mr. Weeks is a former Fellow of the Center who is at present completing work for his doctor's degree at Yale University.

There is a good deal of truth in the old archaeological adage that six months of field work provides enough data to keep one busy in the laboratory for at least two years. Since 1963, I have been fortunate enough to have spent over twenty months in the field, in Cairo, Nubia and at Giza and Saqqara, over half of this time as a Fellow of the Center. Since then, I've been keeping more than busy analyzing the data acquired.

My interests during these field trips have centered upon problems of ancient Egyptian medicine and disease, and the otherwise monotonous job of checking and re-checking measurements, references, and the like, has been made infinitely easier because of a sudden, marked increase in interest in this field. Interest in early Egyptian medicine seemed almost

to have vanished a scant twenty years ago; but in the last few years, several projects have come into existence, and more seem on the way. Knowing that some of the readers of the Newsletter are among those interested in the history of medicine, and indeed have contributed much to its current resurgence, I thought it might be worth while to recount some of the projects I began a few years ago and to describe a few of the results so far obtained.

I. Basic to the study of Egyptian medicine, of course, are the already-published reports of both medical and Egyptological specialists. Unfortunately, many of these are hidden away in obscure, discontinued journals almost never easily accessible to scholars. Realizing how frustrating it can be for the Egyptologist to comb medical journals for occasional bits about Egypt, and for the medical specialist to pore over volume after volume of Egyptological journals or excavation reports, I therefore began to collect references to works dealing with ancient Egyptian medicine. Three years after it was begun, this project is now nearing completion, and includes nearly three thousand references, ranging in time from 1550 to 1967 A.D., in language from Arabic to Japanese, in journals from the New Delhi Gazette or the Cleveland Hospital Bulletin to the Wellington Courier. I have selected about 2000 of these references for inclusion in an eventual Bibliography of Egyptian Medicine, and am continuing to annotate each reference and to cross-reference their contents by medical subject and by categories of Egyptological significance. When finished early next year, this bibliography will mean that someone interested in arteriovascular disorders of the XVIIIth Dynasty, in arguments for and against the presence of trephination in Egypt, in discussions of P. Ebers LXVII, or in explanations of Akhenaten's appearance can refer to the cross-indexed bibliography and find both references and summaries, instead of having to spend long hours combing unfamiliar literature for passing references to his topic.

II. The study of achondroplastic dwarfs begun in 1963 is now completed; a paper was read last month before the American Association of the History of Medicine and is now being readied for publication. This project has been an extremely interesting one, both because of the vast amount written about Egyptian dwarfs, and because of the large number of representations of dwarf figures in statuettes and reliefs. I have been able to record 140 such representations, plus a number of dwarf skeletal remains and several textual references, excluding, of course, the thousands of references to, and figures of, Bes and Ptah-Sokar. Perhaps the most interesting conclusion reached in this study is that, despite much published comment to the contrary, the terms nmw and d'ng do not refer to "pygmy". There is, in fact no hieroglyphic term for "pygmy", nmw and d'ng both refer to dwarfs, but to dwarfs of different social position. This categorization of the deformed by both physical appearance and social position offer exciting potential for further studies of Egyptian medicine and society.

III. The anthropometric survey of the Gebel Adda skeletons---all 7,000 of them!--continues, in association with the dental x-ray study conducted by Dr. James Harris and his team from the University of Michigan. I have completed an examination of a selection of the skeletons of

Christian, X-Group, and Meroitic times, in hopes of finding better mathematical techniques for the determination of skeletal sex than those currently in use, and in hopes of shedding further light upon the complex question of population change in Nubia. The mathematical side of the project is being continued with aid of computers (I shudder at the thought of having to perform nearly 750,000 calculations by hand!), and it will hopefully be finished by 1970. The question of Nubian population, studied in part mathematically, in part by laboratory tests, has just begun, and it is hoped that we will be allowed to bring a sample of the skeletal material back to the United States for the necessary laboratory study. It might be noted, however, that so far work with the samples has confirmed the work of other recent anthropologists, who see only minor physical difference between the peoples of the various periods. There seems no reason to believe that Nubian culture change was due to the invasions of physically distinct groups who imposed themselves upon the indigenous peoples. Preliminary results of this study will appear later this year in Dr. Harris' monograph on the ancient and modern Nubian population.

IV. The study of representations of the deformed in Egyptian art, of which the dwarf study was a part, is also continuing, and will be coupled with a re-examination of Egyptian medicine in general. I have hopes of finishing the recording of deformities as shown in reliefs at various Old Kingdom sites this year, and a medical analysis can then begin. The statement one so often finds in books on Egyptian art, that deformed people are only "very rarely" shown, is certainly far from correct. Such representations do occur, and with surprising frequency. My wife and I will return to Egypt this summer to continue cataloguing materials related to the A.R.C.E-University of Washington project at Hierakonpolis, and to complete the recording of these medically significant reliefs.

In other projects, two further reports on excavations at Arminna West, conducted by the Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition under the direction of William Kelly Simpson, are now completed. Professor Trigger's study of the "Late Nubian Settlement at Arminna West", are now in press and will be available next month. (See last page of Newsletter).

I hope that in a later issue of the Newsletter, I shall be able to report further progress on this study of Egyptian medicine and society, and on the cataloguing of archaeological specimens of the Archaic period.

RARELY VISITED SITES OF MIDDLE EGYPT

By Edward L.B. Terrace

Mr. Terrace is Associate Curator in the Department of Egyptian Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He went to Egypt in January as a Fellow of the Center to complete studies for a publication of a magnificent painted coffin of the Middle Kingdom from Bersheh, now in the Museum of Fine Arts, which he will present

as his doctoral thesis. In connection with his studies he visited a number of sites in Middle Egypt, difficult of access and hence little visited. For the benefit of other scholars who may wish to study the important remains of Middle Egypt, he here provides an itinerary and a guide.

From February 21 to March 1 I undertook a tour of sites of Middle Egypt--Zawiyet el-Amwat (also called Zawiyet el-Metin), Tuna el-Gebel, Eshmunein, Beni Hassan, Bersheh, Sheikh Said, Amarna, Metr, Maabda, Deir el-Gebrawi, Assiut, Hammamieh, Kau el-Kebir, and Abydos. The last place named was for a rest after the former places. David O'Connor and Barry Kemp of the Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition had asked me to visit them there, so I did and enjoyed my first bath in eight days. My tub consisted of a tisht, a basin five inches deep and about eighteen inches in diameter, but that bath was certainly the most luxurious one I have ever experienced.

The journey of which it marked the climax was an arduous but memorable one. I shan't go into the beauties of the Egyptian landscape, the fascinating glimpses of contemporary life offered in out-of-the-way villages, or the revelations of Egyptian painting at its best in some of the Middle Kingdom tombs, but since it is difficult to get information about ways and means of getting to and from the sites of Middle Egypt or about accommodations to be found there, I am offering a rather prosaic, factual account of my journey, in the hope that it may be of assistance to future travelers.

For the sites of Zawiyet el-Amwat, Tuna el-Gebel, Eshmunein, Beni Hassan, Bersheh, Sheikh Said, Amarna, and Meir, there are two possible centers from which to make excursions--Minia and Mallawi. In Minia there is now a tourist hotel, the Hotel Nefertiti (rates for full pension, for two, LE 6, plus 10% service; for one person, about LE 4). The hotel is at some distance from the railway station, and maximum rates from station to hotel are by carriage 15 piastres and by taxi 25 piastries. For the traveler wishing to visit ancient sites there are two sources of information in Minia: Mr. Adly Michael, tourist officer of the Governorate of Minia, who can be reached through the hotel, and Mr. Yacoub Farah, chief inspector of the Department of Antiquities for Middle Egypt, a district extending from the Fayum to just south of Abydos.

The other center is Mallawi. The Semiramis Hotel in Mallawi is, in the words of Baedeker, hardly "suited to the needs of Western travelers". Mallawi is, however, far more convenient in terms of location for nearly all of the sites I have mentioned, and local taxis are much less expensive than those of Minia. The intrepid, therefore, will sacrifice comfort and even cleanliness for the sake of reduced expense (25 piastres a night, plus 10% service) and the greater accessibility of the monuments, not to mention the abundance of local color to be found in Mallawi. Despite the fact that I can not be described as intrepid, I used Mallawi as my chief base, and therefore most of the information I give here is concerning arrangements that can be made from that place.

Mallawi is the headquarters of an Inspectorate, which is under the general supervision of the Chief Inspector for Middle Egypt and it has the following places in its immediate charge: Tuna el-Gebel, Eshmunein, Beni Hassan, the Bershehs (of which there are three-Deir el-Bersheh, El-Bersheh, and Nazlet el-Bersheh), Sheikh Said, Amarna, Meir and a number of less notable sites between Beni Hassan and Meir on both sides of the river. From Mallawi a taxi may be had for about LE 2 for a long morning or a long afternoon, either sufficient for a rapid survey of Tuna el-Gebel or Eshmunein-Panopolis. The great tourist attraction at Tuna is the vast catacomb for ibis and ape burials, which extends for several boring kilometers underground. Aside from this monument to human folly, there are the boundary stelae of Akhenaten, marking the western limits of his domain, and a number of Graeco-Roman monuments, including the famous tomb of Petosiris. I was a bit disappointed in the reliefs of this tomb. Although the iconography was interesting, I found the style flaccid. This was the first of many experiences which convinced me of the impossibility of judging style on the basis of drawings.

The enormous ruin fields of Eshmunein-Panopolis are impressive. It was disappointing to find, however, that the magazine containing the Amarna reliefs discovered at the site by the Germans is not accessible.

I might interpolate here that Mallawi boasts a small new museum, not yet open to the public. It contains a great many ibis mummies from Tuna and the remains of the Kashaba collection, formerly at Assiut.

To visit Bersheh one goes by taxi from Mallawi to Deir el-Melik, a small village on the West Bank, a trip requiring about a half-hour, then crosses the river in a felucca (another half-hour) to be met by donkeys, previously arranged for by the Inspectorate at Mallawi. It is an hour's ride from the river bank, through El-Bersheh and Deir el-Bersheh and across the desert, to Wady Deir en-Nakleh, more familiarly known as Wady Deir el-Bersheh, but a most interesting ride it is. El-Bersheh is a flourishing, indeed a rich and luxuriant place, with lush fields and orange groves. Deir el-Bersheh, slightly to the north, is a prosperous Coptic village; Nazlet el-Bersheh, to the south, is a Moslem hamlet, with a large and interesting cemetery, where one may see mud bricks being made exactly in the ancient fashion. The famous tomb of Djehuty-hotep is reached by a stiff climb up the face of the Wadi. There are no ladders provided and no illuminating devices. Here, as at many other sites, a strong torch is necessary. It was a surprise and disappointment to find that the colors in the paintings of this tomb are very much distorted by a now yellowed varnish, mistakenly applied in modern times in the hope of preserving the ancient colors. Owing to earthquakes and landslides a number of tombs in the Wady are in a precarious condition.

Sheikh Said is from an hour and a half to two hours by donkey from the site of the Bersheh tombs. The reliefs of the tomb of Wer-iren are very much blackened by smoke; those of Meru, rather less so. Another hour's donkey ride takes one to the river bank for another trip by felucca to Deir el-Mawas (also the embarkation point for Amarna) on the opposite shore. The Inspector will arrange for a taxi to meet one at Mawas.

The day's expense will be about LE 1.50 for taxi, 50 piastres for up to three donkeys, plus 5-10 piastres for each donkey boy, 1 piastre, plus 10 piastres baksheesh each way, for the felucca. Since no eating facilities are available, it is wise to provide oneself with food for this trip.

If one visits Amarna from Mallawi, one will probably use donkeys; if from Minia, the Tourist Officer may arrange for a vehicle, but the local vehicle is not always in working order. At least two days are needed for "doing" Amarna on donkey back. At "Tell el-Amarna" there is a new resthouse about a half hour's walk from the landing place where cold drinks and biscuits may be purchased. The Northern Palace may be visited by making a detour on the way to the northern tombs, a trip requiring the better part of two hours by donkey. From the northern tombs, it is another hour's ride to the great boundary stela about half-way between the northern and southern tombs, and from the stela it takes an hour to get back to the resthouse. The southern tombs, near the village of Hagg Qandil, can be reached from the resthouse in an hour's travel through the ancient city. Although a "Coleman" lantern is available at the northern tombs the lighting it gives is far from adequate. Here, as elsewhere, ladders are not to be had. If one wishes to make close inspection of paintings and reliefs, arrangements for ladders must be made through the Inspectorate.

In October 1966 a severe rainstorm sent a flash flood from the eastern mountains across the desert and through Et-Tell ("Tell el-Amarna"), damaging many houses. A small, new village has now been built between the Northern Palace and the ancient city. Partway between the southern tombs and Hagg Qandil, an extensive new system of canals is being laid out in the desert. The present activity suggests what must have happened some 3300 years ago when Amenhotep IV was building his new city in the desert.

Since Beni Hassan is so frequently visited by tourists from Minia, I need only add that the site can also be visited from Mallawi--by taxi to Abu Qurqus and hence by felucca to donkeys on the East Bank. It might be added that nothing has been done toward cleaning the paintings of the rock tombs; at Beni Hassan they are still concealed (especially the famous paintings of Khnumhotep) by thick gray film. It is said that the Department of Antiquities intends to carry out a cleaning program and that the Centre de Documentation will undertake a complete re-recording of the tombs.

Zawiyet el-Amwat (also called Zawiyet el-Meitin) can be seen on the same day as Beni Hassan, if desired, by taxi from Mallawi. After returning to the West Bank you may take the taxi to Minia, where it is ferried across the Nile and brings you, after about half an hour, to Zawiyet el-Anwat, a most interesting site, especially because of the juxtaposition of monuments of so many periods of Egyptian history. The so-called step pyramid of the Third Dynasty lies next to an imposing limestone stairway of the Ptolemaic Period, which ascends the mountainside to Old and New Kingdom tombs, and adjacent to all this is an extensive Islamic cemetery. The taxi from Mallawi and return costs LE 6.

Meir is also easily reached by taxi. It is a one and a half hour drive from Mallawi (LE 5 for the day) or a two and a half hour drive from Minia (LE 7). The tombs there are excellently kept. Most have concrete ceilings with skylights providing excellent illumination, and with their fine reliefs and paintings they are as good a goal as any in Middle Egypt for Egyptologist or tourist. Fortunately, the marvelous paintings of the tombs of Ukh-hotep II and Ukh-hotep III have not been varnished and thus appear as fresh and clear as when the colors were laid on in the reigns of Sesostris I and III. Only the painted relief of Ni-anhk-Pepy was "protected", with a visible darkening of the ancient colors.

From Assiut (Hotel d'Assiout de Tourism, 50 piastres a night for one person, 80 piastres for two; very good restaurant) a number of sites may be visited. I went only to the Gebel Assiut, Qau el-Kebir, Hammamieh, Deir el-Gebrawi, and Maabda. The well-known tombs at Assiut are easily reached from the town, Hammamieh and Qau, both on the East Bank, are accessible by taxi at about LE 5 for the better part of a day, Hammamieh being about an hour and Qau another half hour or so south of the city. At Deir el Gebrawi (taxi LE 5), we found the tombs locked and sealed, as a result of a directive made some years ago. Maabda now presents little of great interest, although one feels that it might yield to excavation.

Since most of the sites I have mentioned are fairly remote and difficult of access, the traveler must not fail to make contact with the inspectorates of the Department of Antiquities at Minia, Mallawi, and Sohag. The Chief Inspector for Middle Egypt is, as I have mentioned, Mr. Yacoub Farah, whose headquarters are at Minia. His colleagues are Mr. Osiris Gabriel and Mr. Gergis Daud at Mallawi; Mr. Abdullah Said Mahmoud at Sohag. All of the inspectors are most cooperative and happy to be of assistance to the serious traveler. I owe the success of my visit to them and above all to our distinguished colleague Dr. Labib Habachi of Cairo, who helped me plan my itinerary and introduced me to the Chief Inspector at Minia.

THE JOINT U.A.R. - U.S. PYRAMID PROJECT

By John Dorman
Director, American Research Center in Egypt

The advance guard of the American team of the Joint UAR-US Pyramid Project arrived in Egypt during the Bairam festivities, Easter weekend, and in the midst of one of the worst khamseens Cairo has experienced in ten years. By the following week, however, as Cairo settled back into its daily routine and the last sand dumped by the khamseen was being swept away, the remaining members of the team arrived with their wives, and the project was under way.

The object of the project is to locate any undetected chambers which may exist by installing deep in the burial chambers of the pyramids, spark chambers, which can measure the cosmic ray flux from all directions. If a hidden chamber exists, the cosmic ray counting rate from its direction will be greater than from others. Should any hidden chambers be detected

their location will be indicated initially as two-dimensional. By moving the spark chamber apparatus to a new location, simple triangulation will result in a three dimensional diagram of the hidden chamber. The application of spark chambers to, in effect, "X-ray" the pyramids is the brainchild of Professor Luis W. Alvarez, a physicist at the University of California's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley. Prof. Alvarez found enthusiastic support for his project from Dr. Ahmed Fakhry, formerly with the Department of Antiquities and one of Egypt's outstanding Egyptologists, who this year is a visiting professor at Berkeley.

The project, which is possibly more scientific in concept than archaeological, is a cooperative effort among several institutions both in the United States and the United Arab Republic: the United States Atomic Energy Commission, the Smithsonian Institution, the Department of State, the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory of the University of California, the Egyptian Department of Antiquities and Cairo's Ain Shems University. The ARCE, by contract with the University of California, is to provide administrative support to the American team. Professor Alvarez, Dr. Fakhry and Professor Fathi El Bedewi, Dean of the Faculty of Science at Ain Shems University, form the project's executive committee.

The American team of five scientists from the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory is headed by Dr. Jared A. Anderson, a physicist, and includes Frederick T. Kreiss, an electronics technician, Sharon O. Buckingham, an engineering technologist, Lauren F. Yazolino, also a technologist, and James H. Burkhard, a specialist on computers. It's a young team: Dr. Anderson is 29 and the oldest scientist in the group is 35.

The Americans working on the project and their wives are living temporarily at Mena House as they look for more permanent quarters. A building owned by the Antiquities Department and located east of the Cheops Pyramid and north of Chephren will be the laboratory and nerve center of the project, where data from the spark chambers within the pyramids, relayed over electric cables, will be recorded and analyzed. The data received in the Giza laboratory will be processed through an IBM computer to be installed in the near future at Ain Shems University. The cost for the project is now estimated at approximately \$500,000.

The US-UAR team will first tackle the Cheops Pyramid where, working from the "Queen's Chamber", they will check out their equipment and chart the chambers which are already known to exist, thereby convincing the skeptics of the efficacy of the system. The team will then move the equipment to the only known funeral chamber in Chephren, which is ideally placed for purposes of the experiment, centrally located, subterranean, spacious and rubble-free. The scientists are convinced that the project will be effective and, as the moment of truth approaches, archaeologists on the spot are becoming more guarded in their skepticism.

A CONFERENCE ON THE PHOENICIANS

By John A. Wilson

Andrew MacLeish Distinguished Service Professor,
The Oriental Institute, The University of Chicago;
Vice-President and Member of the Board of
Governors, American Research Center in Egypt.

As part of its centennial year, the American University of Beirut is holding a series of symposia, conferences, and lectures. From March 7th to 10th, 1967, an archaeological symposium presented ten lectures on "The Role of the Phoenicians in the Interaction of Mediterranean Civilizations." These lectures will be published by the University, and much of the material will be new in the results of recent excavations or in fresh summaries of existing knowledge. Probably there was never before such a gathering of specialized talent on Canaanite-Phoenician-Punic.

The Emir Maurice Chehab, Director-General of Antiquities in Lebanon, and Prof. Jean Leclant of the Sorbonne spoke on relations between Phoenicia and Egypt until the time of Alexander the Great. Dr. Mitchel Dahood of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and Dr. David Diringer of the Alphabet Seminar at Cambridge University talked about language, literature, and writing. A paper was read from Maurice Dunand about his excavations at Byblos. Henri Seyrig, former director of the French Archaeological Institute in Beirut, spoke about Seleucid Antioch and its ports. Antonio DeVita of Florence and Sabatino Moscati of Rome gave exciting reports on their excavations of Punic sites in the western Mediterranean. James B. Pritchard of Pennsylvania had fresh material on the Peoples of the Sea, based on excavations in Jordan. I closed the series with a talk on the past century of Near Eastern archaeology and the outlook for the future.

The gathering of scholars gave an opportunity for them to sit in closed sessions and to discuss problems in professional detail. The central question was: Who and what were the Phoenicians? Perhaps there were as many answers to that question as there were discussants. But the relations of West Semites, Canaanites, Phoenicians, Peoples of the Sea, Hebrews, and the later Punic peoples sharpened in terms of questions, if not in terms of answers.

It is clear that our knowledge of the Phoenicians rests upon a small range of observations: Byblos for earlier times; Ugarit for the second millennium B.C.; then classical times. More excavation is needed, and, on the basis of past experience, should enlarge and sharpen the picture. The linguistic evidence suggests an important role for northwest Semitic language, literature, and writing. Excavations in the western Mediterranean show how proudly the Punic settlements clung to Semitic elements -- the tophet and the betyl, for example -- and egyptianizing artistic elements, such as the double crown, the lotus, the frieze of uraei, and the god Bes. Despite the political fragmentation of Phoenicia, it is clear that the culture felt a sense of separate identity. More excavation should show the Phoenician coast as a seat of a culture to be respected for itself.

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY

By Sami Hamarneh
Curator in Charge of the Division of Medi-
cal Sciences of the Smithsonian Institution;
Fellow of the American Research Center in
Egypt, 1966-1967.

According to the Islamic calendar, this year marks the hundredth anniversary of the Dar el-Kutub, the Egyptian National Library, which was founded on the 20th of Dhu al-Hijjah 1286, under a decree of the Khedive Ismail. By Western reckoning, the centennial of this great institution should be celebrated in 1970. It is to be hoped that it will not pass unnoticed.

When I arrived in Egypt last January to study Arabic manuscripts on medicine and pharmacy, I found that construction had started on a large new building to house the library, and this led me to an interest in the history of the institution, the first of its kind in the Arab world. While modern guidebooks usually give the credit for the foundation of the library to the Khedive, it should really go to the engineer-reformer Ali Mubarak, who initiated the proposal and worked toward its fulfillment. The original collection, made by uniting the libraries of several institutions and mosques, was housed in the Mustafa Fadil Saray. This no longer exists, but with the aid of an old Egyptian, I was able to find the site on which it stood. In 1904, the growing collection was moved to the present building in Bab al-Khalq, which has now become inadequate to house it.

The fine library now includes more than a million volumes, among them over 67,000 manuscripts, many of which are exceedingly rare. These last include several hundreds dealing with medicine, pharmacy, and allied sciences, invaluable sources for my study. The library is, as I have said, not only the first of its kind in the Arab world, but it remains preeminent in comprehensiveness and organization, one of the great institutions of the continent of Africa, and an indispensable source for oriental studies.

It seemed surprising to me that its centennial according to Hijrah reckoning should have passed unnoticed, but perhaps in 1970 the Dar al-Kutub will receive its well-deserved recognition, not in Egypt alone but throughout the world for the part it has played in the preservation of precious books and manuscripts and making them available to scholars of all nations.

NEWS OF FORMER FELLOWS OF THE CENTER

Jere L. Bacharach, Fellow of 1964-1965, has held a teaching fellowship in the Department of History of the University of Michigan during 1966-1967. During the coming academic year he will be a member of the History Department at the University of Washington, Seattle. Mr.

Bacharach is still working on his doctoral dissertation, much of the research toward which he did in Cairo, but hopes to have completed it by the end of the summer.

Malcolm H. Kerr, Fellow of 1964-1965, spent the following academic year as Visiting Associate Professor of Political Studies at the American University of Beirut. He is now Associate Professor and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Political Sciences at U.C.L.A.

His recent publications include:

The Arab Cold War, 1958-1964: A Study of Ideology in Politics.
Oxford University Press for the Royal Institute of Inter-National Affairs, London, 1965.

Islamic Reform: The Political and Legal Theories of Muhammad Abduh and Rashid Rida. University of California Press, 1966. "Islam and Arab Socialism," Muslim World, October 1966, pp. 276-280.
"'Learning to Live with Nasser': Attempts and Failures," International Affairs, January 1967, pp. 65-84.

Professor Kerr is continuing work on his history of Arab socialism, which he began as a Fellow of the Center, and hopes to complete it during 1968.

Trevor Le Gassick, Fellow of 1964-1965, formerly Assistant Professor of Arabic at Indiana University, is now Assistant Professor of Arabic at the University of Michigan. He has continued his study of contemporary Arabic fiction furthered by his year in Cairo. His translation of a delightful novel by the Egyptian writer, Naquib Mafouz, entitled Midaq Alley, was published in 1966 by Khayat of Beirut, and the same publisher has in preparation his anthology of stories by Ihsan 'Abd al-Quddus. An article by Professor Le Gassick, "A Malaise in Cairo ----- Three Contemporary Egyptian Authors," is scheduled to appear in the spring 1967 number of Middle East Journal. Professor Le Gassick plans to revisit Egypt and Syria during the coming summer.

Pierre A. MacKay, Fellow of 1964-1965, is now Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of Washington, Seattle. After leaving Egypt, he was awarded the Olivia James Traveling Fellowship of the Archaeological Institute of America, and spent the following year in Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon. His recent publications include: "A Macedonian Boundary Inscription of A.D. 114," Hesperia 34 (1965) and "The Fountain at Hadji Mustapha," Hesperia 36 (1967). He has also completed a chapter on "The Arabic Testimonia" for Mendes. Professor MacKay is now at work on an edition with translation of Evliya Celebi's Seyahatname and on a publication to be entitled "The Manuscript Tradition of the Maqamat of Badi' al-Zaman and Hariri."

Susan Jane Staffa, Fellow of 1965-1966, has accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the American University in Cairo and will take up her duties there in 1967. In the meantime, she is completing the dissertation begun under the auspices of the Center and expects to receive her doctor's degree in June. On her return to Egypt she will continue research on medieval Cairo and pre-industrial urbanism.

Charles Wendell, Fellow of 1964-1965, writes that he returned from Egypt in the summer of 1966 to assume a position as Acting Instructor in Arabic at U.C.L.A. During the Fall and Winter of that year he completed his doctoral dissertation, " 'Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayyid and the Concept of an Egyptian Nation," much of the research for which was done at the National Library in Cairo, and was awarded his degree in March 1967. At the beginning of the coming academic year, he will take up his duties as Assistant Professor of Arabic at the University of California in Santa Barbara. He is now working on a revised and expanded version of his thesis for publication. He also plans an edition, possibly with translation, of three short Arabic histories of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, which he found in the Egyptian National Library.

IN MEMORIAM

S. Pinkney Tuck 1891 - 1967

Readers of the Newsletter will learn with regret of the death of Somerville Pinkney Tuck, a founding and life member of the Center and a distinguished diplomat, whose long career in the foreign service of the United States culminated in his appointment in 1946 as the first American ambassador to Egypt. That country was by no means terra ignota to Mr. Tuck. His father had been judge of the International Court in khedivial days, and he himself had thus spent his early years in Egypt, laying foundation for a fluency in Arabic that later stood him in good stead. Subsequently he was deputy consul in Alexandria and consul in Cairo and advanced to important posts in the American embassies sent to Middle Eastern and European capitals. He retired in 1948 after thirty-five years of service. Immediately after his retirement he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Suez Canal Company, the first American to be so elected, and he served on that body until the canal was taken over by the Egyptian Government in 1956. Of recent years Mr. Tuck spent much time in Paris, where he died on April 22.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

Mr. E. L. B. Terrace has kindly provided the following notes on activities in Egypt.

Excavations and Surveys

An Austrian mission under the direction of Dr. Manfred Bistak is entering on a third season of excavation at Tell Deba (also known as Tell Birkit), a small tell near Qantir in the Delta. Under Late Period and New Kingdom levels, this mission has exposed a context that is purely Middle Bronze Age Palestinian in its affinities. Finds of bronze types and pottery as well as burial customs support this conclusion. It is hoped that further excavation may throw new light on the Hyksos problem.

Professor Hans Wolfgang Muller of Munich has made a sondage at Min-shat Auled Abu Omar in the northeastern Delta which has revealed Early

Dynastic material only one meter under the surface in a part of the tell that is used (or has been used) by the local inhabitants as a source of sand. He will begin a full season of excavation in September. The site is an extensive one and the excavation promises interesting results.

Mr. Shafik Farid, formerly Chief of the Inspectorates of the Department of Antiquities and now Director of the Coptic Museum, is continuing his excavation of Middle and New Kingdom areas at Bubastis.

Under a contract between the French and Egyptian Governments, a group of French architects and surveyors have begun a survey of the Great Temple at Karnak to provide a modern plan of the complex. Their work is to be followed by restoration, as yet undetermined.

Nearly 20,000 blocks from the Aten Temple at Karnak have been photographed by a mission under the direction of Mr. Ray W. Smith. His staff is programming a number of these photographs for the computer, which it is hoped will aid in the reconstruction of the temple.

The Coptic Museum has just published a new guidebook to its collections, with full text and many plates; it is available in both English and Arabic editions.

Orient, Greece and Rome

This is the theme of the IXth International Congress of Classical Archaeology, which will take place at Damascus, October 10-20, 1968. A preliminary announcement recently issued informs that the general theme will be dealt with in four sessions:

- I. Interrelations between Orient and Occident in the Classical Period.
- II. Archaeological Excavations in Syria and the Near East.
- III. Classical Architecture and its Problems in the Near East.
- IV. Traces of Classicism in the Byzantine and Islamic World.

Each session will begin with a basic report followed by briefer communications, according to a program established by the Committee on Organization, and will end with free discussion. Although the program is far from complete, two members of the Center already appear in a preliminary announcement, Bernard V. Bothmer, who will speak in the second session on "Excavations of a Graeco-Roman City Thmuis (Tell Timai) in the Nile Delta," and Oleg Grabar, who will read a paper in the fourth session, subject not yet announced. During and after the Congress, arrangements will be made for the delegates to visit sites in the Syrian Arab Republic. For further information, address Direction Générale des Antiquités et des Musées, Damad, République Arabe Syrienne.

XXVIIth International Congress of Orientalists

For the first time, the orientalists of the world will gather in the United States for exchange of ideas relating to their various fields of study. The XXVIIth International Congress of Orientalists will meet at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor from August 13 to August 19, 1967. The President of the Congress is Professor W. Norman Brown; the Organizing Committee consists of Professors John K. Fairbank, Albrecht Goetze, L. Carrington Goodrich, G. E. von Grunebaum, John Whitney Hall, and John A. Wilson, Vice-President of the Center, is Chairman of the section on the Ancient Near East and Professor von Grunebaum, President of the Center, is Chairman of the Section on the Near East and the Islamic World. Arrangements have been made for charter flights at very reduced rates for foreign scholars who will attend the conference; they will also be accommodated without charge in the dormitories of the University of Michigan and at the close of the Congress they will be proferred a sightseeing trip to Washington and New York before taking off from Kennedy International Airport for return to their respective countries.

Since the ARCE will be largely represented at this Congress, readers of the Newsletter may look forward to their notes and comments in a coming issue.

Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ARCE

The Board of Governors of the Center will meet in Ann Arbor immediately preceding the International Congress of Orientalists, convening on August 12, 1967 at 3:00 p.m. in the Michigan Union.

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER

Caminos, Richard A. "The Talbotype Applied to Hieroglyphics," in Journal of Egyptian Archaeology 52, 1966, pp. 65-70; plates.

The author of this instructive and diverting article makes a contribution not only to the history of egyptology but to that of photography, especially as applied to archaeology. Professor Caminos, the last person to record the rock-stela of King Sethos I and his viceroy Amenemope at Kasr Ibrim, Nubia, before the waters of Lake Nasser closed over it (see his forthcoming Shrines and Rock-inscriptions of Ibrim) here presents a long-forgotten first publication of that monument, reproduced in 1846 by the negative-positive process called calotype or (after its inventor W. H. F. Talbot) talbotype. It was this process that "made feasible... for the first time the mass printing and publication of photographs." So far as is known, the only surviving copy of the brochure of 1846, entitled The Talbotype applied to Hieroglyphics, is now in the photographic collection of the Science Museum in London. Mr. Caminos reproduces it in toto, and its history as he relates it should prove fascinating reading alike for egyptologist and for layman.

Cooney, John D. "A Roman Imperial Head from Egypt," in The Bulletin of the Cleveland Museum of Art LIV, 1967, pp. 17-21; illus., plate.

A handsome Roman head found in the Nile Delta and recently acquired by the Cleveland Museum is here identified as a portrait of the Emperor Claudius. Mr. Cooney outlines the difficulties attendant upon identification of Roman portraits, all too rarely inscribed, and gives reasons for assigning the piece at least tentatively to Claudius, although "it is not easy to reconcile the impression of strength and determination, physical force and pride which radiate from this portrait with the physical deformity and vacillating character known to be typical of this man who became emperor by accident."

In this same number of the Bulletin appears a translation by Mr. Cooney of an article by Professor Hans Jucker of Berne, Switzerland, who identifies another Roman head, long in Cleveland, as a portrait of the Emperor Balbinus. Professor Jucker has found that this Cleveland piece fits exactly the place of a long-missing head of Balbinus on a sarcophagus in the Vatican.

"The Vicarello Goblet", in The Bulletin of the Cleveland Museum of Art LIV, 1967, pp. 37-41; illus., plate.

This article describes a silver beaker of the Augustan period purchased by The Cleveland Museum. At the time of purchase in a London auction sale nothing was known of the provenance of the piece but it has now been traced to a find made at Vicarello in 1962 on a site anciently known as the Springs of Apollo, where it had presumably been deposited as a votive offering. The piece is a "little masterpiece" of Roman silversmithing, depicting in high relief a shrine of Priapus flanked by a satyr and a dancing maenad. These figures are of a style that makes a date around the beginning of the Christian Era a certitude.

Grunbaum, G.E. von and Callois, Roger, Eds. The Dream and Human Societies, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1966. xiii 457 pp., index.

This volume is based on the proceedings of an international colloquium, "Le Rêve et les sociétés humaines", held in France in 1962 under the auspices of the Near Eastern Center, University of California, Los Angeles. It is thus an anthology of learned articles by scholars from many fields of investigation, including neurophysiology, psychology and psychoanalysis, anthropology, and comparative religion, and it serves as a useful guide to the study of a still imperfectly understood phenomenon common to all men of all ages -- the dream. The introductory chapter, by Professor von Grunbaum, "The Cultural Function of the Dream as Illustrated by Classical Islam," is of particular interest to students of medieval Egyptian society. A number of other scholars deal with the influence of the dream among peoples of the Near East, ancient and contemporary, although the considerable part it played in the life of pharaonic Egypt appears only incidentally. However, as Professor von Grunbaum points out, the aim of the conference and thus of this volume "could only be representative selection, not completeness".

Both colloquium and book emphasize the value of interdisciplinary cooperation, not only in a particularized study such as this but also in the broader fields of historical investigation.

Simpson, William Kelly, "The Archaeological Expedition to Egyptian Nubia," in Discovery, Magazine of the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, Vol. I, No. 1, Fall, 1965, pp. 4-11; illus.

This readable article usefully summarizes the work of the Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition at Toshka and Arminna, which has been frequently mentioned in the Newsletters and the Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt.

"The Letter to the Dead from the Tomb of Meru (N3737) at Nag' ed-Der, Journal of Egyptian Archaeology 52, 1966, pp. 39-52; plates and figs.

The early letter to the dead in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, here discussed by Professor Simpson, is exceptional in that it is written on papyrus instead of being inscribed on a bowl, as is usually the case. The writer seems to have been a man named Heni, who implores his deceased father Meru to prevent a third man named Seni from troubling his dreams. It is not quite clear whether Seni is living or a ghostly visitor. The very difficult text, plausibly attributed to Dynasty IX, is carefully analyzed by the writer of the present article, who presents alternative translations of enigmatic passages.

"The Stela of Amun-Wosre, Governor of Upper Egypt in the Reign of Ammenemes I or II, in Journal of Egyptian Archaeology 51, 1965, pp. 63-68; plate.

Here Professor Simpson translates and discusses the text of a round-top stela belonging to Mrs. Josephine H. Fisher of Detroit, which he assigns to the early Middle Kingdom. The chief interest of this stela lies in the title "Governor of Upper Egypt," an office that has sometimes been thought to have disappeared during the First Intermediate Period. This stela, however, seems to indicate that the title survived, and in no empty honorific sense, into the early Middle Kingdom. The name of the king under whom Amun-Wosre held office is not quite clear, but Professor Simpson, partly on paleographic evidence, fixes the chronology of the stela in the time of either Ammenem~~e~~ I or II. At the time of publication, the provenance of Mrs. Fisher's stela was unknown. In the following issue of the Journal, however (JEA 52, 1966), Professor Simpson contributes a note, "Provenance and date of the stela of Amun-Wosre," which acknowledges a communication from Mr. Barry Kemp of Cambridge University revealing that the fragment derives from the excavations of the Liverpool Institute of Archaeology conducted at Abydos by Professor John Garstang. An earlier negative of the piece in the Liverpool School of Archaeology seems to indicate that the fragment bears the name of Ammenemes III and thus dates from still later in the Middle Kingdom. Professor Simpson suggests that the office of "Governor of Upper Egypt" may have been revived as part of the administrative reforms instituted

by Sesosiris III and that the paleographic evidence for a date in the early Twelfth Dynasty may simply indicate that the stela was made after an earlier model.

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE PENNSYLVANIA-YALE SERIES

Professor William Kelly Simpson, director of the Pennsylvania Yale Expedition to Egypt, announces that the following publication are now in press and will be ready for distribution early this summer:

The Late Nubian Settlement at Arminna West, by Bruce G. Trigger.
New Haven and Philadelphia, 1967 (Publications of the Pennsylvania-Yale
Expedition to Egypt No. 2). Aproximately \$16.00, bound.

The Classic Christian Townsite at Arminna West, by Kent R. Weeks.
New Haven and Philadelphia, 1967 (Publications of the Pennsylvania-Yale
Expedition to Egypt No. 3). Approximately \$14.00, bound.

Orders may be sent either to the University Museum, 33rd and Spruce
Streets, Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania, or to The Peabody Museum, 170
Whitney Avenue, New Haven Connecticut, 06511.

Publication No. 1 of this series, Heka-Nefer and the Dynastic Mat-
erial from Toshka and Arminna, by William Kelly Simpson, appeared in
1963 and was noted in Newsletter 52, July 1964, pp. 19-20.